

Message Text

SECRET

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S E C R E T TEHRAN 5469

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IR, FR, UK

SUBJECT: THE SHAH AND EUROPE

1. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION ABOUT HIS RECENT TRIP TO FRANCE, THE SHAH AT AUDIENCE ON JULY 2 INDICATED THAT HE HAD BEEN PLEASED WITH THE TRIP AND ADDED, QTE MY REAL INTEREST IN GOING TO FRANCE AT THIS TIME WAS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE DESTINY OF WESTERN EUROPE IS INSEPARABLE FROM THAT OF MY COUNTRY UNQTE. HE POINTED OUT THAT THIS WAS THE PSYCHOLOGICAL MOMENT TO HELP A NEW GOVERNMENT IN FRANCE MAINTAIN THAT STABILITY WHICH IS SO IMPORTANT TO THE FUTURE OF WESTERN EUROPE. REFERRING TO THE BILLION DOLLARS IRAN WILL ADVANCE TO FRANCE, THE SHAH COMMENTED, QTE I AM GOING TO DO THE SAME THING FOR GREAT BRITAIN. IN FACT, I AM GOING TO DO A LITTLE MORE. GREAT BRITAIN WILL GET \$1,200,000,000 UNQTE. AT THIS POINT IN THE CONVERSATION, THE SHAH SWITCHED TO THE VISIT HE HAD HAD LAST MONTH FROM DR. GUIDO CARLI, GOVERNOR OF THE BANK OF ITALY. IT APPEARS THAT THE ITALIANS ASKED FOR SOME FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM IRAN. ACCORDING TO THE SHAH HIS PART OF THE DIALOGUE WITH CARLI RAN ABOUT AS FOLLOWS: QTE DO

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YOU EXPECT ME TO GIVE MONEY TO ITALY WHEN ONE DOES

NOT KNOW FROM ONE DAY TO THE NEXT WHAT KIND OF GOVERNMENT YOU WILL HAVE? CERTAINLY I HAVE NO INTEREST IN CONTRIBUTING TO A SITUATION WHICH MAY HELP ITALY TO GO COMMUNIST. UNDER EXISTING POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES IRAN CANNOT SEE ITS WAY CLEAR TO MAKING FINANCIAL LOANS TO THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT UNQTE.

2. FROM DISCUSSING WESTERN EUROPE THE SHAH VEERED TO THE SOVIET UNION AND THE PROBLEM IRAN HAS BEEN HAVING IN GETTING THE SOVIETS TO ACCEPT HIGHER PRICES FOR NATURAL GAS. THE SHAH EXPOSTULATED, QTE THIS COMMUNIST STATE IS GUILTY OF THE WORST KIND OF IMPERIALISM. IT IS EVEN WORSE IN ITS BEHAVIOR THAN THE OLD ANGLO-IRANIAN OIL COMPANY* IT STRIKES ME AS VERY ODD THAT COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AND THE LIBERAL ELEMENT IN YOUR COUNTRY TURN OUT TO BE REAL IMPERIALISTS WHEN IT COMES TO ACCEPTING THE RIGHT OF THE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY TO ESTABLISH FAIR PRICES FOR ITS NATURAL RESOURCES UNQTE. THE SHAH DID NOT INDICATE HOW HE SAW THE OUTCOME OF THE TUSSELE WITH THE SOVIET UNION OVER GAS PRICES.

3. THE SHAH EXPRESSED HIMSELF AS PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH THE PRESIDENT'S HANDLING OF AFFAIRS WITH THE USSR IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE WORLD DOES NOT GET DIVIDED INTO TWO CAMPS. HE SAID THAT AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN FRANCE HE HAD ANSWERED ONE QUESTION BY STATING THAT HE WAS CONVINCED THAT PRESIDENT NIXON WOULD NOT MAKE ANY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE RUSSIANS ALONG THESE LINES. HE THEN WAXED PHILOSOPHICAL FOR A FEW MOMENTS ABOUT THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD IN TERMS OF TRADE AND COMMERCE.
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